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Letter dated 9 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you the attached letter dated 8 July 2015 from the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (see annex).

I would be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Peter **Wilson**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw your attention to the situation in Zabadani, Syria, where a joint offensive by Hezbollah and Syrian regime forces is terrorizing the town's inhabitants.

Since last week, reports indicate that Syrian regime forces have launched more than 115 barrel-bomb attacks on Zabadani, 90 on 3 July alone, while both Hezbollah and regime ground forces have been relentlessly shelling the town. Reports also indicate that the surface-to-surface missiles unleashed on the people of Zabadani in the last few days may have been launched from within Lebanese borders. These indiscriminate aerial attacks and incursions by foreign fighters constitute violations of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.

Sadly, this illegal military onslaught by the foreign fighters of Hezbollah into Syrian territory is not new to Syrians, who have endured Hezbollah's violent support for the Syrian regime in the Qalamoun region and elsewhere throughout the crisis. Hezbollah, a military group considered terrorists by many States, including some permanent members of the Security Council, routinely crosses the Lebanese border into Syria to fight for a regime responsible for 95 per cent of all deaths since the beginning of the uprising.

Hezbollah is one of many foreign fighting groups to wade into the conflict, but it has been one of the largest, boldest and most destructive to the Syrian people. We have many times urged that all foreign fighters, among them Hezbollah, are unwelcome and should leave Syria. With over 220,000 lives lost, it is time for the international community to take actionable steps to relieve the terror that is life in Syria today. Therefore, the Syrian National Coalition asks that the Security Council:

- **Take action to condemn** in the strongest terms Hezbollah's acts of aggression inside Syria;
- **Call on the Lebanese Government to abide by its accords and take steps** to prevent Hezbollah from launching attacks on Syrians from inside or outside Syria;
- **Support the establishment of a safe zone** in Syria to mitigate the damage caused by the regime's indiscriminate aerial attacks, including with barrel bombs.

The Syrian National Coalition reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of acts of aggression by any and all foreign fighters in Syria that terrorize the Syrian people, whether they associate with ISIS, Hezbollah or any other group that uses terror to threaten the Syrian people's aspirations for freedom, pluralism, democracy and peace.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative to the United Nations
National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces